

*Our quality of service, your quality of life*

# **MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES**

## **By the City of Asheville**



## **2002 - 2005**

- Began in 2002
- Initiated and coordinated primarily by volunteers 2002 through 2005
- City provided support and programming assistance
- Typical program 60 to 90 minutes

# Sample Program



## **Memorial Day Ceremony** May 31, 2004 2:00PM City County Plaza



**Patriotic Musical Medley**  
Asheville Christian Academy  
Chorus & Band

**Welcome**  
Bob Caldwell

**Invocation**  
Rev. Rick Dean

**Placing of Memorial Wreath**  
Gold Star Mother

**Presentation of Colors**  
Color Guard & Service Representatives

**National Anthem**  
Jaxi Brannock with the  
Asheville Christian Academy Band

**Pledge of Allegiance**  
Bob Caldwell

**Recognition of Service**  
Bob Caldwell

**Introduction of Guest Speaker**  
Bob Caldwell

**Guest Speaker**  
General "Ed" Eberhart,  
Commander, NORAD & USNORTHCOM

**Unveiling of US commemorative WWII stamp**  
Postmaster with Jesse Ledbetter

**"God Bless America"**  
Ernie Miller with the  
Asheville Christian Academy Band

**Closing Prayer**  
Chaplain Melba Banks, VA Medical Center

**"Amazing Grace"**  
Bagpiper Cindy Penland

**3-volley Rifle Salute**  
Asheville High School ROTC

**Taps**



## 2006

- City of Asheville was asked to take over the event
- Observance was shortened from previous years

# 2006 Program



## Memorial Day

May 29, 2006  
City of Asheville  
Noon

**Opening Prayer** – Reverend Spencer Hardaway  
**Presentation of Colors** – Buncombe County Firefighters  
Honor Guard  
**Singing of the National Anthem** – Mr. Ric Ledford  
**Remarks** – Dr. Carl Mumpower  
**Reading of Poem** "Among the Rest Who Gave Their Best"  
– Officer Leona Hamilton  
**Taps**



In Memory Of A Veteran Who Served His Country With Honor.

### Among the Rest Who Gave Their Best

As they lower me into my grave,  
let not a tear be shed,  
I fought to keep my country free,  
and now my Lord I'm going to see,  
for just my body's dead.

As they fold the flag and fire the shots, let no  
emotion show,  
Stand firm and brave, beside my grave,  
and listen as the bugle blows.

Weep not for me as you walk away, turn not for  
one last look.  
As the haunting strain of taps remain,  
press a kiss upon your holy book.

The men will softly turn the soil, as I wing away  
with God.  
The diggers will refill the pit,  
till signs of death retract from it,  
and replace the torn sod.

As years go by and memories fade, my stone shall  
Stand erect,  
Among the rest, who gave their best,  
Our freedom to protect.

Author Unknown

*Presented by  
Buncombe County Veterans Council  
Volunteer Memorial Team*

## **2007 Programming in Progress**

- Congressman Heath Shuler has agreed to speak – schedule an issue
- Paperwork approved and filed requesting military flyover

## **2007 Advisory Questions**

- Should the ceremony incorporate patriotic music?
  - If yes, subcommittee for patriotic music?
- What other ceremonial activities should be incorporated?
  - Placing of Memorial Wreath?
  - 3-Volley rifle salute?
  - Others?
- How should the event be promoted?
  - Subcommittee for marketing and public relations?